(b) In February, 2004 the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads as National Highways including 273 kms in Karnataka. It is premature to indicate any time-frame for further declaration of National Highways.

Modernization of SSIs

438. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to support the SSI Sector, enable it to achieve technology upgradation and modernization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the highlights of the said scheme; and

(d) the manner in which the scheme is going to help in view of Government's open import policy?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government has launched credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) which provides 12% upfront capital subsidy to SSI units including agro and rural industries on institutional finance availed of by them for technology upgradation and modernization of their production techniques relating to 44 specified products/sub-sectors. The eligible part of the loan amount for clculation of subisdy under the scheme has an upper limit of Rs. 40 lakh. The Scheme is implemented at the national level through two nodal agencies, namely, Smal Industries Development Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. A total number of 560 SSI units have been benefited till 31 January 2005 under the scheme through disbursement of subsidy to the tune of Rs. 14.3 crore.

(d) The adoption of technology upgradation measures by SSI units under the scheme has resulted in overall improvement in the quality of the products, productivity, capacity utilization, energy conservation, pollution abatement, etc., leading to higher sales and profit realization and better

working conditions. In this manner, the Scheme helps in strengthening the SSIs so that they can face the competition from increasing imports.

Comprehensive legislation of SSIs

439. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring a comprehensive legilslation to promote and remove the bottlenecks in the growth of SSIs;

(b) if so, by when such a bill is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the constraints in doing so and what other measurs are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A draft Bill, viz., "Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005" is under active consideration of the Government. Attempts are underway to introduce the Bill in Parliament during the on-going session.

Delay in payment to SSIs

440. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that small scale industries in the country are gravely suffering from the delay in payments held by the large organization; and

(b) if so, the action that has been taken by Government to punish these defaulting organizations along with the details for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small and Ancillary Industrial